

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 06153 131118Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 H-01 EB-08 L-03
COME-00 PRS-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04
CEA-01 /107 W
-----131154Z 052663 /20

R 130931Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3804
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6153

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, PFOR,
SUBJ: ARAB BOYCOTT

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REF (A) STATE 80062 (B) CAIRO 5374 (NOTAL)

1. TAHSIN BASHIR, GOE'S AMBASSADOR TO ARAB LEAGUE, PROVIDED
ECONCOUNS WITH FURTHER INFORMATION ON CLOSED MEETING ATTENDE
BY HEADS OF AL DELEGATIONS LAST MONTH FOR DISCUSSION OF BOYCOTT
(REF B). BASHIR CONFIRMED THAT GENERAL FOCUS OF MEETING WAS
NECESSITY OF TAKING A FRESH LOOK AT A PROGRAM CREATED MANY

YEARS AGO, TO INSURE THAT BEST INTERESTS OF THE ARABS ARE STILL BEING SERVED, AND IN MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

2. AS HAS OFTEN BEEN NOTED BY OTHER ARAB OFFICIALS, BASHIR UNDERLINED FACT THAT NO ONE CAN TAKE A STAND AGAINST BASIC PRINCIPLE OF BOYCOTTING ISRAEL, A NATION WHICH STILL OCCUPIES ARAB LAND, AND EVEN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE PRAGMATIC VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN OVERALL TERMS ARE COMPELLED TO BE RELATIVE HARDLINERS ON BOYCOTT. BASHIR PLACES EGYPT IN LATTER CATEGORY, WRYLY NOTING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED REJECTIONISTS AND RADICALS, EVERY TIME A MODERATE POSITION IS ADVOCATED, TO TAKE ANOTHER SHOT AT SADAT, "FATHER OF SINAI II".

3. IN EVIDENT RECOGNITION OF NEED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM IN A RATIONAL WAY, AND WITHOUT NECESSARILY ABANDONING USEFUL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TOOL PROVIDED BY THREAT OF BLACKLISTING, AL HAS CREATED A COMMITTEE TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF THE SUBJECT AND REPORT BACK BY SEPTEMBER. EXPERTS WILL BE CALLED IN TO COVER VARIOUS PARTS OF THE OVERALL BOYCOTT AND PROVIDE RESULTS TO COMMITTEE (BASHIR AVOIDED NAMING PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES, BUT IMPLIED EGYPT IS ONE OF THEM), WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AND WHAT IT WILL MEAN TO ARABS - AND TO AMERICA. BASHIR SAID THAT ISSUE IS TOO EMOTIONALLY CHARGED FOR ANY DRAMATIC CHANGES TO TAKE PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT SAID HE WAS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT MODERATE VIEWS AS EXEMPLIFIED BY EGYPT AND SOME OTHERS WOULD EVENTUALLY PREVAIL. (THIS APPEARS TO COINCIDE WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MINECON EL SAYEH IN MEETING WITH DEPASST SEC SOBER, AS REPORTED REF A.)

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4. BASHIR ALSO CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS OF EARLIER AL DECISION (CAIRO 5299 NOTAL) TO BRING ACTIONS OF COYCOTT COMMISSION, AMONG OTHERS, UNDER CLOSER CONTROL OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEES, SO THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF SENSITIVE AND IMPORTANT MATTERS WOULD NOT BE LEFT IN THE HANDS OF BUREAUCRATS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THERE IS GROWING CONCERN THAT OVER-ZEALOUS FUNCTIONARIES SOMETIMES PLAY INTO HANDS OF ANTI-BOYCOTT FORCES IN U.S. AND ELSEWHERE BY RAISING MATTERS NOT RELATED TO THE BOYCOTT, E.G., RELGIOON, AND AL WANTS TO BRING THAT TYPE OF ERROR TO A HALT.

5. COMMENT: NEXT MEETING OF BOYCOTT COMMISSION, SCHEDULED IN ALEXANDRIA ON MAY 7 ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MAY BE A TEST OF STRENGTH OF MODERATES, ESPECIALLY IF ACTION BY CONGRESS RESULTS IN ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION BEING PASSED PRIOR TO SESSION, AS APPEARS LIKELY. BASHIR ASKED THAT EMBASSY KEEP HIM FULLY INFORMED ON THESE MATTERS AS THEY DEVELOP.

MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO06153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0008
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770463/aaaaccjo.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6b6435a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 80062, 77 CAIRO 5374
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2825123
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB BOYCOTT CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, PFOR, XF, IS, AL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6b6435a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009